



# Parent Newsletter

St Mary Magdalene Secondary

Issue No 3 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November

## Black history term

This term SMM will be celebrating Black culture as part of our Black history term. So far, we have looked at David Olusoga's documentary Black and British and this week students will look at some of the ancient world civilisations that contributed so much to the modern world by watching the Alka lecture he gave at Oxford university. If you are interested in watching this, please use the link provided ([189 Akala | Full Address and Q&A | Oxford Union - YouTube](#)). In addition, we have updated our displays to show how Black civilisations have always contributed to the modern world looking at examples such as the Black Samuri Yasuke to the Angolan warrior Queen, Queen Nzinga to mention a few. We will also be uploading our my culture video looking at the many Black cultures that make up SMM.

## GCSE Option Choices

Over the next two half terms, year 9 students will be supported in making their GCSE Option Choices. They will have careers guidance in PSHE, support from Family Group Tutors and SLT and clear information from their subject teachers in lessons.

Key dates for parents/carers to be aware of:

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Options Evening 5-6.30pm

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Year 9 Parents' Evening

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Deadline for Options choices

In the next few weeks information about subjects will be on the website so please do support students in their choices.

## Year 11 Maths letter

Please see attached a letter from Mr. Pigott, Head of Mathematics regarding preparations for your child's mock examinations.

## Free school meals (Post-16)

Find out if you are entitled to FSM by clicking the link;

[Apply for FSM](#)

## Runway training – Learn to Succeed Programme

Year 12s interested in careers in the public sector, creative industries & business have been taking part in the Learning to Succeed programme as a part of their careers provision. As a part of this they were able to visit L&Q peninsula offices to get an experience of the workplace and the jobs available locally as the peninsula continues to develop.

## Whole school careers support

If at any point any students or parents would like any advice or guidance on their careers journey, from GCSE choices, post-16 options, post-18 options and more please email [studentcareers@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:studentcareers@koinoniafederation.com)

## Message from the Chaplain

There are times in our year where we all need some more light in our lives.

The evenings are getting darker quicker, the mornings are getting less bright, and the days are getting shorter.

Add into that the bad news we see in our country, the violence and loneliness and poverty we see in our communities, and the sadnesses we sense in our families.

What brings us light? Not the temporary, passing light that the world offers. A quick fix, a brief hit of happiness, a candle in the wind that easily goes out.

Faith, hope and charity are things that last longer, have a bigger impact on us and our mental health, and often cost less than a retail spending spree to make us feel better for a while.

Faith in a God who cares for us – regardless of our situation.

Hope in our community – through the ones who love us and encourage us.

Charity or generosity in our hearts – a smile shared, a meal offered, a drink given.

And if we have these and share them, then the light grows brighter, if we have faith then we will weather any storm – even the weeks and weeks of rain that we've had recently. If we have hope then these seasons of darkness will be seen as fleeting. If we gather with others, share the happiness we have and inspire each other to find joy, then the light of Christ – that darkness can never put out – will be seen even on the dimmest days.

***Give thanks for faith and community.  
Seek moments of hope and joy.  
Pray for light and the courage to shine. Amen.***

[Rev. Dominic Hubbuck](#)  
School Chaplain

## Year 11 Careers Advisor Interviews & Parent information

Across the Autumn term every single Y11 student has had a 1-2-1 interview for independent careers guidance with an external and impartial advisor. In order to further support your child making their post-16 choices please see below links to presentations created by this advisor to help parents and carers support their children make these choices:

- Part 1 – Post-16 options: <https://app.nearpod.com/?pin=UY8GD>
- Part 2 – Going to university <https://app.nearpod.com/?pin=4MRGA>
- Part 3 – Supporting your child making choices <https://app.nearpod.com/?pin=HPT4E>

## Year 9 GCSE options

This half term Year 9s are completing PSHE sessions focused on how to links their interests and careers goals when choosing their GCSE options. In order to support your child with these decisions please use the following link to find some videos discussing different GCSE choices and enter the password: gcse [londonstemambassadors](https://londonstemambassadors.com)

## [Mock examination timetable](#) (click for letter and timetable)

## Kwame Alexander - Author Event



As a part of the Library and reading enrichment program, we have hosted an event where pupils from SMM and other schools from Royal Borough of Greenwich had a lifetime opportunity to meet a poet, educator, publisher, producer, a New York Times Bestselling author of 36 books Kwame Alexander. We were thrilled to have in our school an individual who engaged so well with pupils to show the importance of a resilient-oriented mindset and share such experience and valuable knowledge with our students. It empowered, motivated and inspired them.

## Year 7 School Journey- Norfolk Lakes

Students in year 7 visited manor adventures at Norfolk lakes on 14th Nov-18th, the first year 7 school journey since Year 7 journey trips were suspended. Their week was full of lots of fun activities and gave students the opportunity to bond and build teamwork within their family groups.



On Monday when we arrived for our first session students were very quiet and shy; during the activities day staff and instructors could see more and more teamwork forming and lots of positive communication. The students particularly enjoyed the giant stand up paddle boarding, caving, crate stacking, bouldering, manor olympics and the full English breakfasts in the morning!

## Comments from students

- "The best part of the trip was I made new friends"
- "I enjoyed spending time with my friends for the whole week!"
- "I enjoyed the southern fried chicken"
- "I enjoyed bouldering"
- " I enjoyed jumping in the lake"



## Sports Update

### Winter Weather

Please ensure your child is dressing appropriately for PE in the winter weather as it becomes colder and wetter. Please see osm ebelow advice and guidance:

- Pupils can wear lightweight rain jackets suitable for sport in their PE lessons when it is raining. Pupils will not be permitted to wear their puffer jackets/big coats for PE as they are not suitable.
- Pupils can wear black 'underlayers' under their PE kit when it is cold to keep warm. Pupils will not be allowed to wear tracksuit tops over their PE kit during lessons.
- Pupils cannot wear hoodies at any time during PE.
- Pupils are encouraged to bring warm hats/gloves/snood's for PE in the winter weather.

### Sports Fixtures

Y9 Basketball vs John Roan  
Score: SMM 51-25 John Roan  
MVP – Leonardo Carloto



Y10 Basketball vs John Roan  
Score: SMM 30-42 John Roan  
MVP – **Lemuel Adeyosoye**



### 6<sup>th</sup> Form Basketball

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form Basketball Team have been training rigorously for the last 6 weeks and are now preparing to face John Roan and Woolwich Poly in their first ever fixtures!



Y10/Y11 Girls Football Tournament  
The team remained unbeaten for the whole tournament!  
Player of the Match – **Valerie Abu**



Mr R. Hussain  
**Principal**